



## Workbook Discussion Guide

Hopefully, you have loved reading the novels in the **Mr. Right Series**! We believe the girls in your sphere of influence will, too. This discussion guide will help you take them through the **Mr. Right Series Workbook**, which allows readers to look more closely at the many issues presented in Julia's story (as well as *evaluate their own hearts and lives*).

There is more than one way to use the series workbook, but **this guide will give you some structure and ideas for maximizing the experience**. This workbook can be used for individual or group study, but for the sake of this guide, we will reference its use for small groups.

Each group working through this workbook has unique dynamics regarding the age of participants, meeting duration, and session frequency, but as you keep those factors in mind, the following guidelines can be adapted for any situation. **Feel free to use the workbook with teens, singles, or as a great experience for mother-daughter teams.** We pray even you as a leader find it personally enriching.

### QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE WORKBOOK

- 1) **The workbook is divided into three sections**, one for each novel of the series. We suggest your girls read one novel and then go through the workbook section for that novel before moving on, to keep each plot and set of issues fresh. However, some girls cannot wait to read the next novel, so proceed however works best for your girls. (You can always discuss the novels individually after all three have been read.)
- 2) **As the leader, you need to read each novel before beginning its workbook section with your girls.** You should also become familiar with the workbook, getting a feel for how it is set up, how content is presented, and how journaling is facilitated at the end of each entry (introduced by the words **GRAB YOUR JOURNAL**).
- 3) **The girls in your group should read all of novel 1 BEFORE beginning the workbook.** (At least as many girls as possible.) They will glean much more from this experience if they already know the novel plot and characters.

Most teens/singles read novel 1 in 1-3 days. Therefore, a week should be sufficient time for the young women to finish novel one and be ready to begin the workbook. You may give them more time, but the sooner you can begin discussing the novel after reading it, the better.

- 4) **We recommend that your first session after reading each novel be a relaxed one, the girls freely sharing what they thought of the plot and characters.** This is a chance for the girls to have fun talking about the story without too much “teaching” or “lessons to be learned.” There will be plenty of time to analyze each issue once you begin leading them through the workbook. Simply have a good time discussing each novel together, and **pay attention to the girls’ comments.** Each girl’s response will give you better insight into her personality and her understanding of the story dynamics. *A list of questions you can use to initiate conversation is provided on pages 11-16 in this guide. (There is a separate list for each novel.)*
  
- 5) **We recommend that the girls complete the assigned entries at home first,** before discussing them in your group. This allows time to process issues before having to talk about them in a group setting. It also eliminates anyone feeling blindsided regarding an issue included in the workbook. Lastly, it gives the girls more time for sincere reflection, to develop their relationship with God.
  
- 6) **Consider carefully how many entries you want to discuss each session** (depending on how often you meet and the allotted time for group discussion). The number of entries assigned each time may fluctuate, depending on the length of the entries themselves (novel one only). Regardless of which novel section you’re doing, you will most likely want to assign multiple entries to be completed at home before you meet again. **(Keep in mind that each entry takes on average 10 minutes to finish.)**

Ideally, you don’t want to overwhelm the girls with tons of “homework” due each session. However, you must also cover enough material each session to complete the entire section of the workbook in a reasonable amount of time.

Some leaders go through every Scripture and question the girls worked through at home. Others pick and choose which points to discuss together. Do whatever works best for your group and time limit.

**NOTE:** Novel one lays a foundation for the girls (during the season of Julia’s life with the most compromise and mistakes). That workbook section has several entries per chapter. By novels 2 & 3, the foundation has been laid, so there is only one entry per chapter for those two workbook sections.

**Above all, keep this experience enjoyable for the girls.** Honestly working through issues should be challenging, yet exciting and liberating (not heavy and discouraging). *Keep laughter and understanding a big part of your time together.* Be sure to communicate that all of us (yourself included) are learning and growing in life. By the end of this experience, *your girls should feel more loved, supported, and empowered than ever* by you and their Heavenly Father. Why? Because love shares the truth, and the truth sets one free (John 8:32).

## OPTIONAL LESSON PLANS FOR GROUP SESSIONS

### Session 1

- **Explain a little about the Mr. Right Series and your vision for this study together** of Julia's story, beginning with novel 1. Keep your explanation brief but exciting.

(**Example: The Mr. Right Series** is a novel series that tells the story of a girl named Julia. Novel 1 begins as she goes away to college in search of a boyfriend. We're going to read the first novel, ***Waiting for Mr. Right***, and then go through a workbook about it together. As you get into the novel, you'll see all the choices that Julia makes as she tries to find true love. Some of them are good, some are bad, and some may surprise you! She gets herself into a lot of predicaments, but it's her honesty about what's going on inside her heart that I think you'll like the best. You might even meet some girls in these pages that remind you a lot of...well...**YOU!** Or maybe they'll remind you of other girls you know. Either way, I know you're going to love this book! Let me read a few pages for you right now...)

- To create interest for the story, read aloud the **first 2 pages** to the girls, **stopping after this line on page 13:** *One day a girl in my English class motioned to me and silently passed over an envelope. Surprised, I took it from her and opened it.*

No matter how much they might ask to hear more, stop there to inspire them to read the rest on their own.

- Hand out the novels and instruct the girls that they have one week (or whatever time period you choose) to finish them. Let them know that they will get their workbooks at the next meeting.

If you need more activities to fill the time period, here are a few ideas:

- **Have the girls brainstorm topics/issues that they would like discussed during the course.** Tell them that you might not get to them all, but you're interested in what they care about right now. This brainstorming could be done as a group or individually on anonymous slips of paper that are collected. This initial exercise will show you what topics are most on these girls' hearts and which entries from the workbook you may want to spend more time on during the course.
- **Allow the girls to begin reading the novel silently until the end of the session.** Remind them not to spoil any parts of the novel for others who are still finishing!

## Session 2

- **Spend the majority of your time together in this session simply talking about the novel.** Let the girls freely discuss what they thought of the different plot elements/twists, issues presented, and characters. Keep it light and fun without too much "teaching" or "lessons learned" at this point. **Pay attention to the girls' answers** to gauge their understanding of the story dynamics. *(See pages 11-16 for a list of questions to spark conversation on each novel.)*
- **Before the end of the session, hand out copies of the workbook.** Now that each girl has her own copy, make an "assignment" regarding how many entries should be completed at home before you all meet together again.
- **Stress to the girls that they need to invest time and effort into these entries.** Each one will only take a few minutes to read and respond to, so it will not be difficult.
- **Remind the girls that this workbook will only benefit them if they are truly *honest* with themselves and with God.**
- **Have them turn to the HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK page** in the front of the workbook (pg. vii), and read it together. Then show the girls the sample workbook entry (pg. viii) and the sample journal entries (pg. ix) so they will have an idea of what is expected. Encourage them to sincerely express their hearts to the Lord in their workbooks. *Remind them that He is listening, He cares, and He will be there to direct them.*
- **Assure the girls that whatever they write will be private unless THEY choose to share it with the group.** No one is to read anyone else's entries without permission.
- Depending upon the age of your group members, **you may want to create a reward system for the completion of entries at home.** (individual & group rewards)

## Session 3 (and remaining sessions)

**This is where you begin discussing the entries in the workbook.** There are many ways to work through each entry, so proceed however you feel is the most effective with your girls. This will require you to be creative, but you're up to the task! *That's why God asked you to mentor these girls.*

Naturally, different subjects lend themselves to different approaches and questions, so *be flexible*. Not every entry has to be handled the same way. Some shorter entries are so self-explanatory, they won't need much extra commentary, just the chance to discuss the girls' answers and their **GRAB YOUR JOURNAL** responses.

### Here are some general suggestions:

- For short entries, you can re-read each entry together, asking questions off the text as you go.

**Example:** When you or a girl in the group reads the line, *"She knew her parents loved her and were trying to protect her, but she still wanted to experiment with some of the things she saw other girls at school doing."*

You could ask, *"How many of you have ever sensed your parents trying to protect you?"* or *"Have any of you ever felt like Julia about not having a boyfriend?"* or *"How many of you have ever wanted to try things you've seen others doing?"*

- If an entry is longer, you may want to simply select certain sentences or paragraphs to re-read to refresh their memories on what was covered. (Highlighting such sections ahead of time would be helpful.)
- You may want to re-read the Scriptures together since they reinforce what God has to say about life and issues. You can also ask questions from the Scripture text. If a Scripture passage is lengthy, you could have girls read only certain verses that you want to focus on that day.
- If there are any boxes that were filled in, you can discuss what the girls wrote in their boxes. You can also brainstorm additional answers together.
- Read the invitation to journal (which always begins with **GRAB YOUR JOURNAL**) and then ask the girls if anyone would like to share what they wrote. It doesn't have to be their whole letter to God, just a thought, a line, or a few sentences.
- This is your opportunity as the leader to share your perspective/wisdom on the topic with further examples, Scriptures, or thoughts. **You can expound on the concept, or you can ask group members simple questions like these listed in the following box:**

## SIMPLE ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

Did this entry make you think differently in any way?

Did you know the Bible talked about this? (Did you know that this story was in the Bible?)

Why do you think the Bible mentions this issue?

What is one idea that was new to you as you read this?

Any new thoughts as you read these verses?

Which verse in this entry meant the most to you? Why?

If you could share just one line from this entry with someone, which one would it be?

Can you think of any other situations this applies to?

Is this something you've seen someone else dealing with in her life?

If you had a friend struggling with this situation, what would you tell her?

How does this affect our relationship with God?

What does our Heavenly Father want us to do?

Is it natural to feel this way? How do we handle those feelings in a Christ-like way?

How does our relationship with Christ make a difference in this situation?

Define \_\_\_\_\_. (Examples: Define envy. Define gossip. Define loyalty.)

What could happen if we don't deal with \_\_\_\_\_?

God wants to help us with this. He often uses other people to help us. Who else can help us with this issue?

How does this affect us as women? How do we support each other in this area?

What's one thing we can do this week to work on this area?

Do you have any questions about any of this?

Is there anything you want to talk more about today?

- We recommend ending each session in prayer together.
- Be sure to assign the entries to be completed before meeting again.

## LAST SESSION

- **This session should be very special, for you have completed a significant journey with the girls in your group!** Hopefully, by working through all the issues in one section of the workbook, your girls have come to a place of greater growth, understanding, and trust, and are closer to their Heavenly Father (and to you as their leader). By now, they have had a chance to appreciate the truth, power, and relevancy of the Bible as well as the value of spending time alone with God in personal devotion.
- **Be sure to congratulate your group members for finishing what they started and making it through the entire section!** We recommend you celebrate somehow, perhaps with a night out together or a home party, any way that recognizes their great accomplishment.
- **You may want to ask them some final questions, summing up their experience:**

## SUMMARY QUESTIONS

What's one thing you've learned from doing this workbook and studying Julia's story closer?

Did doing this workbook change the way you saw any of the characters?

Did doing this workbook change the way you saw any of the events in the novel?

Did doing this workbook change the way you saw yourself?

What did you learn about God from doing this workbook?

What did you learn about yourself from doing this workbook?

What surprised you as you worked through this workbook?

Do you look at Bible verses any differently now?

Which was your favorite entry?

Which Bible verse/passage was your favorite?

Has doing this workbook helped your relationship with God? How?

Did you enjoy journaling letters to God?

What can you do now to stay close to your Heavenly Father?

What can you do now to keep Jesus as your first love?

- **Encourage your girls to continue this journey with God with continued Bible study, prayer, and even journaling.** Point out the following page in the back of the workbook: *Ideas for Time Spent with God.*
- **Highlight the *Need more help? Get it!* page at the end of the workbook.** Encourage them to talk to you or another trusted adult if they need more help dealing with things in their lives, past or present.
- **Let your girls know that Julia's story is not over!** They can read novels 2 & 3 and watch Julia as she is *Meeting Mr. Right* and *Marrying Mr. Right*. (Girls may order additional novels off our website at [www.MrRightSeries.com](http://www.MrRightSeries.com).) If you are going through additional novels/workbook sections with them as a group, let them know that great news!
- **Also, let the girls know about our blog for teen girls and young women!** They can find it on our home page at [www.MrRightSeries.com](http://www.MrRightSeries.com).
- **Lastly, we recommend ending this journey with a word of affirmation from you for each girl in your group.** Write a personal note or say something aloud in class for each girl. Affirm the growth and positive qualities you see in her, what she has brought to this group, and what amazing things you know God has for her future. *Remind these precious young women that great things lay ahead* if they will only trust in and cooperate with our awesome God!

## CONTINUING WITH NOVELS 2 & 3

- **Simply use the session suggestions already given for novel 1** with novels 2 & 3 (using the same simple analysis and summary questions). *See pages 13-16 of this guide for conversation starter questions during your first session after the girls have read each novel.*
- As was given for novel 1, here is sample text you can use for introducing the other two novels.

**(Novel 2 example:** In novel 2 of the **Mr. Right Series**, Julia's story continues! Her heart badly bruised from her experiences with Mr. Wrong at Tyler University, Julia returns home to go to school at a local college. You'll see her reconnect with family and friends, especially her best friend, Cassie. Julia is determined to make better choices now, to make Jesus her first love and wait for right guy this time. But a whole new set of temptations awaits, and getting over what happened with Jay is harder than she thought it would be...Throughout the novel, Julia honestly pours out her thoughts and feelings to God in her journal. Get ready for some hard decisions and unexpected surprises! See if you can guess who her Mr. Right turns out to be in the end. I know you're going to love this book! And when you're done reading *Meeting Mr. Right*, we'll discuss it together as we go through a workbook. Let me read a few pages to you right now...)

- To create interest for the story, read aloud the **first 2 pages** to the girls, **stopping after this line on page 11:** *The bill for my season of compromise had arrived, and I was now paying for it!*

**(Novel 3 Example:** Novel 3 in the **Mr. Right Series** will hold your attention from the very first chapter! I don't think you will be able to put the book down once you begin Julia's story with David. Once they are together, Julia is sure that all the stress and frustration she endured while waiting for her guys is over, that everything will work out perfectly now. But one problem after another surfaces and tries to separate her from the man she loves. You'll admire Julia's courage as she continues to trust her Heavenly Father, even when it looks like everything she's hoped for is slipping away...We're going to read this third novel in the series, *Marrying Mr. Right*, and then discuss it together. I know you're going to love this book! Let me read a few paragraphs to you right now...)

- To create interest for the story, read aloud the first page and a half to the girls, **stopping after this line on page 10:** *Excited, I took the box from the kindly gentleman and then opened it.*

- **That's it!** You are now ready to have meaningful yet nonthreatening conversations with your girls as you work through Julia's story together.
- **We'd like to sincerely thank you** for investing in your girls both time and focused attention. And for using the **Mr. Right Series** novels and workbook to do so!

We pray that Julia's story helps your girls grow closer to you, the other group members, their parents/guardians, and most of all their Heavenly Father. **May each young woman see her incredible value, choose to make Jesus her *first* love, and follow the plan God has for her life** (including waiting for, meeting, and marrying her own Mr. Right).

Enjoy!

Lisa Raftery and Barbara Precourt

## Novel 1 Conversation Questions

What did you think of Julia? (Jay, Fran, Karen, Gary, Gretchen, Brad, Gary, Theresa, Julia's mom, Julia's dad, Daryl)

What did you like most about the novel?

Did anything surprise you in the novel?

What was your favorite part of the novel?

Who was your favorite female character and why?

Who was your favorite male character and why?

Did you like/dislike Julia's sorority sisters? Which ones? Why?

Jay always apologized to Julia after he pushed for more than she wanted physically. But then he would just do it again. Why do you think he did that?

How did you react to what happened in Jay's car?

Was Julia wise to date Jay again once it looked like he had become a Christian? Why or why not?

Were you surprised when Jay asked Julia to marry him after the dance?

Julia obviously had fun with Jay and was attracted to him. So what reasons did she give for not wanting to marry him? Do you think those were the only reasons?

What did you think of Jay's parents?

How many of you felt sorry for Jay at different times during the story? When and why?

How many of you thought Jay was simply a big jerk?

How many of you thought Jay's parents were really in that hotel room?

Did anyone figure out Jay's plan at the hotel before Julia did? How?

Did you suspect anything when Jay handed Julia that cappuccino?

What was your reaction to what happened to Gretchen at Brad's frat house?

Why do you think Gretchen kept dating Brad after he date raped her?

What were your thoughts about the scene in the diner with Gretchen, Brad, and Gary?

Why did Julia lie to her parents about moving into the sorority house?

What was Julia's relationship with her dad like before/during her first year at Tyler?

What was Julia's relationship with her mom like before/during her first year at Tyler?

Did you think Julia's talk with her dad in the hospital was helpful to her?

Did anything jump out at you during Julia's talk with her dad?

Did anything stand out to you during Julia's talk with her mom at the restaurant?

What do you think was Julia's first mistake?

Do you think Julia regretted her choice to lie to her parents about her life at college?

Was Karen a good friend to Julia? Why or why not?

Was Fran a good friend to Julia? Why or why not?

Do you think that Jay really accepted Christ as his savior and Lord down at the altar?  
Why or why not?

What do you think Julia looks like?

How many of you pictured Julia as brunette? Blonde? Red-haired?

How did you envision Karen & Gretchen?

What did you think of Gary's story?

What did you think of Fran as a roommate? What do you think she decided to do at the end?

Do you think that you could have been fooled by someone like Jay?

**Do you think you could have made any of the mistakes Julia did?** *(This question doesn't require an answer and is a good one with which to end your discussion.)*

## Novel 2 Conversation Questions

Discuss Julia's attitude once she was home again.

Discuss the main characters in novel 2: Julia, Julia's parents, David, Cassie, Brian, John, Jenny, Flip, Melody, Paul, Miss Lottie, and Professor McNulty.

What did you like most about the novel?

Did the ending surprise you? Explain.

Who did **you** think Julia's Mr. Right would end up being?

Have you ever had a best friend like Cassie?

Have you ever had to get over losing a boyfriend?

Have you ever felt self-conscious about not having a boyfriend?

Julia's parents brought her home to finish college. Have your parents/guardians ever had to show **tough love** toward you about something? How did you react?

Would you have hidden Jay's note and pictures the way Julia did? Why or why not?

Were you surprised by what John told Julia at the cove? Were you aware that guys are that sexually motivated? What from their talk made the most impact on you?

What did you learn from the Cinderella story Jenny told Julia? Explain the "prince or pauper" question. What else do you remember about Jenny and Julia's conversation on the porch?

Why do you think Julia waited until the last minute to tell her parents about Jay's note, etc.? How important do you think it is to be totally honest with your parents/guardians?

Why do you think Julia and Cassie were such good friends?

How do you think you would react to working in a nursing home?

What did you think of Miss Lottie? Did you enjoy the stories about Sophia and Anna, how they met and married their husbands? Could you go through with an arranged marriage? Why or why not?

Did you relate to Julia's feelings of rejection when Keith chose to date someone else?

Has anyone had a crush on you the way Flip did Julia? How did you handle him?

Did you feel sorry for Flip?

Did you like Paul?

Have you ever been a Daffy Dinah? What happened?

What was your reaction to Professor McNulty's request to date Julia? What did you learn from her mistakes with him? How would you have handled him?

How did you like S.O.S. Online? Which entry was your favorite? Which one surprised you the most? Which one taught you the most?

Were you surprised that Paul waited so long to kiss Julia? After he did kiss her, did you think they might fall in love?

Were you surprised when Julia stopped seeing Paul? What would you have done?

Did you enjoy Julia's journal entries throughout the book? What did you learn from her? Have you started to journal?

How did you like the last chapter, *Déjà vu*? What did you think about David? Did the ending surprise you? How did you react to the sudden cut off?

How did Julia mature in novel 2?

### Novel 3 Conversation Questions

Discuss the characters in Novel 3 (Julia, David, Cassie, Brian, Grace, Phil, Paul, John, Jenny, Gloria, Bill, Flip, Melody, and Professor McNulty)

What did you like most about the novel?

How did Julia's life influence the way you now feel about yourself?

How did you like the first chapter? Did it start out differently than you expected?

Could you feel what Julia felt as she was trapped in her car? Explain.

How do you think **you** would have reacted in a similar accident?

Once Julia started reliving how she and David met, did you get so caught up in the story that you forgot she was still stranded in her car?

Did you like the part when David defended Julia with McNulty in the professor's office?

How many thought David's running partner *was* another woman?

Did this novel teach you anything about forgiveness? If so, what?

Are you waiting and hoping for a guy like David? Describe what you want your guy to be like.

How did Paul change in this novel? Did he really change? Discuss.

Which was your favorite chapter? Explain.

Were you glad that Cassie remained one of the main characters in this novel?

Did any of Julia's mother or grandmother's "lessons" stand out to you?

Describe what you thought of Julia's dad.

What did you like most about David?

Were you surprised in Chapter 6 that the **other woman** turned out to be David's dog?

How do you think Julia handled the tension she felt with Melody? Have you ever had something like that happen with a friend? What did you do?

Did you see Flip differently in this novel? How?

Discuss the misunderstanding that happened with Melody and Julia.

Did you like the way the novel included details of Cassie and Brian's wedding and later Melody and Flip's wedding?

David gave every indication of being attracted to Julia. Were you wondering why it took so long for him to finally kiss her? He explains why later. What was the reason?

When David suddenly stopped communicating with Julia, what did you think was happening?

Once they were reunited and finally got engaged, did you think everything would go smoothly after that? Did it?

Describe David's father. Discuss what you thought of his mother.

How did you react when Julia and David broke their engagement? Did you agree they should stop dating until things were resolved with his mother? Explain.

What touched you most from Gloria's story during the tea party? What was Gloria's secret?

Did you feel compassion for Gloria once you knew her story?

Recap your favorite parts from Julia's rescue.

Did you think that Sandy was an important addition to this novel? Explain.

What did you think of Julia and David's wedding?

Were you surprised/happy when Julia's friends from novel 1 attended her wedding?

Did you like the way the series ended? Explain.

What was your favorite book in this series and why?